

UNITED CHRISTIAN MISSIONARY SOCIETY
China Mission
Nanking, Ku.

Jan. 7, 1938

Dear Friends:

I will try to add another line to my letter, copies of which I will try to get through to Eva and Mr. Paul, and I would like the contents to be forwarded to Marx and other close friends. Much of that I would like to write will have to wait a while.

Nanking inside the city walls was practically undamaged on Dec. 12th when the Japanese came in. A very few places had been fired and some looting of Chinese had taken place but not on a large scale. Since then everything has been rather thoroughly looted. We heard one radio message when we connected a set to our X-ray plant which stated that Nanking stores were opening and business returning to normal. Well the stores were looted. Japanese military trucks drove up and loaded the contents and drove off and the buildings were fired. T'ai Ping Rd was thus burned - over sixty percent of the buildings and more than that in value. Eighty percent of the Chung Hwa road almost up to our S.O. property has been burned and some scattered spots from there south. And so with all the business streets. But Nanking is a big city and though we look out nightly and see from one to fourteen fires burning I would estimate that 80 percent of the city is standing. I have gone down the streets and actually counted the buildings standing and my count would put the percentage even higher. However, others tell me that half of the city is burned. I did not try to figure percentage of value.

There is still a corpse in our compound at 209 Peh Keia Rd., another in the first floor of our South Gate women's building and also one in the Floppers' compound - all since the 12th or 13th. Permits to bury have not been obtainable. I have buried more than 38 in hospital dugouts and gathered a few off the streets nearby, most of them soldiers, and buried them without permits. The loss of life has been appalling. Men, women, children of all ages and on slightest or no apparent cause have been shot or bayoneted. We have seen them marched off by the hundreds and later machine guns and other evidence announced their fate to us. Many, of course, were former Chinese soldiers who changed to civilian clothing but a large percentage were not and could have been proved as to occupation and relationship. But military ways are impossible to deal with and when individual soldiers are to be accusers, judge and executioner there is little to be done. We only hear about it afterward and get the story from survivors.

We feel we have rendered good service. I confined myself pretty largely to the Hospital but found it a plenty big job. The hospital is filled to capacity and we maintain an annex with about a hundred extra patients. They have never missed a meal and when electricity and water stopped we maintained an emergency service. Repairs and supplies taxed our resources to the minimum and I will confess that I several times myself went out with a gang and did some looting on behalf of the hospital to keep things going. We have a complete new staff with the exception of our missionaries. But those missionaries were on the job, some of them, day and night and they have performed a wonderful service.

Best regards,

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